

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 14. 1709.

I am now to examine, by what Steps *France* arriv'd to her present Greatness; and this in order to direct us, by what Steps to reduce that Power; how dangerous the Return of that strange Creature call'd, *Exorbitant Power*, is to Europe, in whatsoever Shape to be seen, or in whatsoever Hand to be found; and so if possible, to lay down Rules for our Concern in that Matter in the present Emergency.

No Nation in Europe was so mad, as by open and visible Concert to assist *France* in her known Project of enslaving the rest of Europe, but this poor infatuated Part of the World; and if in this I speak Truths, that some People do not love to hear, and others think ought not to be told, I must be ex-

cus'd, since if I have any Judgment of the Necessity or Seasonableness of the Reflection, I think both are very clear.

The first blessed Step to make *France* great was under the Management of Cardinal Richelieu, in the Reign of Louis XIII. when that Politick Minister was about the difficult Task of reducing the Power of the Protestants in *France*; he had carry'd on all his Projects against them with Success, and reduc'd them to a general Subserviency in the strong City of *Rouen*; and there he resolv'd to besiege them. The Place was too strong to be attack'd in Form, and the Garrison too numerous and desperate for him to carry on a Siege; to blockade them also seem'd to no Purpose, while the *Rebellers* were Masters

of

of the Sea, and had their Port open—
By which they receiv'd Relief as often as
they had Occasion— And this seems a
very proper Note in this Place, and
worth Observation ; that at that Time,
which is not yet full fourscore Years ago, all
the Naval Power of France could not
mate the few despicable poor *Rochellers* ;
but Monsieur *Soubize*, their Champion I
may call him both at Sea and Land, burnt
and destroy'd the few Men of War the King
of France got together to curb them, even
as often as they durst show themselves—
And with his little Fleet rode Master of the
Seas in Spight of all the Power of France.

To make an End of them at once, the
Cardinal broug~~t~~th the *Armada* of Spain, another
mock Force, 20 Galleons were to be
the Number, however about 12 came, be-
sides Satees, and such Kind of Things to the
Number of 22 Sail, these joyn with the
King of France's Navy-Royal, and now
they were to devour *Rochel* at once. But
the *Rochellers* fought them bravely, and
in less than two Years ruin'd both the
French and *Spanish* Ships, burnt the Admiral,
sink and stranded others, and in short con-
tinued Masters.

To out indelible Scandal will it be told,
how these brave Protestants, this little
Remnant that defended their Liberty with
their Blood, were at last ruin'd and op-
press'd by an united Affiance of *English* and
Dutch Men of War— And that we Pro-
testants pull'd down the Protestants of
France, who had else to this Day with Arms
in their Hands not only maintain'd that
flourishing Church, but had been a constant
Cheque to the growing Projects of *France*,
and a steady immovable Obstacle to the
Exorbitant Greatness of *France*.

I make no Reflections on this Conduct as
to the Persons, whether it was Archbis~~p~~^h
Laud, whether *B——n*, or whether the
French Petitioners, that even then too much
govern'd — But the Guile and the Shame
lie in the Iniquities with them, that is none
of my present Business— The Blot lies
on the *English* Councils of those Times, and
we as well as all Europe smart for the Folly
of it to this Hour.

We come from this Point to the Year
1661 ; the blessed Restoration of the Royal
Line promis'd *England* happy Days, a ge-
neral Cessation of Blood and Rapine, the
sad but natural Consequences of Civil
War, and all People seem'd to be pleas'd
with the Change— Nor had the Na-
tions Hopes been defeated, had the King
come over with a Head or a Heart, em-
bark'd in either his own Interest, or that
of his Country.

But the King tainted with that *Plague*
of *Monarchs*; for Monarchy has its peculiar
Distempers, I mean the Lust of Arbitrary
Rule— Immediately sets up a separate Hap-
piness from that of his People. It would
be a long and melancholly Story to relate
here the Steps, by which he attempted the
Liberties, and some say, the Religion of
this Country ; and such was the Humour of
the Times, that this Prince had a strange
Influence over the People by being unmea-
surably beloved by them, so that had he
been a true Politician, he really might have
enslaved them— But here Providence
permitted one Vice to destroy another ;
the Prince given up entirely to his Ease,
and drowned in all the Pleasures of a Life
devoted to Sloth, and Luxury—
His long lascivious Reign was spent
wholly in Drunkenness, Lewdness, and all
Manner of Debaucheries.

To maintain the profuse Expence that
always attends a Life of so much Pleasure,
he neither could be satisfy'd with the daily
Extortions of Subsidies and Taxes given by
Parliament, nor with several Encroach-
ments on his People, but basely subjected
himself to be a Pensioner to *France*, receiv-
ing vast Sums from the *French* Court—
In Lieu whereof it is a sad Story to tell, how
he took his Measures by their Direction,
being manag'd by *French* Councils, wheed-
led by *French* Whores, brib'd by *French*
Money, and in a Word given up to *French*
Interests.

The present King of *France* was now
Major, or of Age, and had disengag'd him-
self from the Incumbrances of State-Re-
gencies, and the Guardianship of his Courti-
ers ; he appear'd vigorous, young, active,
and

and politick, and began to swell with unusual Ambition — He amass'd Treasure, laid up vast Stores of Warlike Provisions to such an incredible Degree, that I care not to enter into the Particulars — He rais'd and maintain'd formidable Troops, and under an able Ministry, particularly that of the Marquis de Louvoi, Colbert, and others; he began to encourage Arts, Learning, Science, and particularly to encrease his Naval Strength, as well as his Armies — To support this, and the future Invasions he had in View, he employs subtle Statesmen to all the Courts of Europe, where by their Arts and Money he lull'd almost all Europe a-sleep, and prevail'd upon them to sit still, at least while he makes himself thus formidable.

He may have been said to have spent 20 Years in this Part of Management, putting him in a Posture to become terrible to his Neighbours, and during which Time his Kingdom flourish'd in Peace and Trade, and his Wealth grew to a prodigious Magnitude — England he had under a compleat Management; Spain was wheedled at the Treaty of the Pyrenees, by a fatal Alliance, making them his nearer Confederates, and dozing them with a Dream of the Renunciation; which how well he propos'd to maintain, has since appear'd, when pretending the Right of Devolution, which could not be affected by the said Renunciations, the Heir not being born; under this Pretence he seiz'd Burgundy, Franche-Comte, Luxembourg, and in the War that follow'd upon this, master'd the Spanish Netherlands, over-running them with a Torrent of Armies, which the Spanish force and unprovided, was in no Condition to resist —

To keep the Dutch employ'd he embarrasses them first with the English in 1666, and then falls in upon them in 1672, with 140000 Men in two Armies, and without any Reason assign'd, but meet Mal Satisfaction, drove the States to the Brink of Destruction.

All this while England play'd the shamefulest Game, that ever this Nation acted in the World; we were entirely given up to make France Great, we encourag'd their

Naval Preparations, sent him over Builders to instruct his People, sent him the very Moulds of our Men of War, without all Question the best in the World, to build by; we sold him Dunkirk, and supinely sat still, and see him make it the most terrible Fortress in the World — We dishonourably and basely fell on the Dutch by Sea, attacking their Smyrna Fleet without any Provocation to, or Declaration of War. Then we pick'd a Quarrel with them, for Want of a better Occasion; upon the Pretence of Right of the Flag; and sent a small Yatch in among their whole Fleet to fire at and insult their Admiral, to make him and their whole Fleet strike to him; upon this we declare War, fight them, loose a great Deal of Money and Blood, and are soundly bang'd by the Dutch into the Bargain — All this while we lend our best Regiments to the King of France to help make him great, and the Scots Battallions of Douglas, now Orkney, sav'd the whole French Army on the Rhine, when the Marechal de Turenne was kill'd with a Cannon-Ball.

But this was not all; we pretend at last to turn about, and recalling our Troops from France, send over a Body of Men to aid the Prince of Orange, when he had almost done the Work without us — But all this while the King manag'd the Treaty of Nimeguen wholly for the Interest of France, and mocking the Prince of Orange with the Image or Shadow of an Alliance, fell into all the French concerted Measures at that Treaty, and signing the Peace in the French Whores Lap, left the Prince in the Lurch, and gave France all his Conquests made upon Spain, coaxing Holland, with Charleroy, Aes, Oudenard, and some such small Places, as a Barrier against future Invasions; which how little they signify'd, Time has discover'd.

By this small Sketch we may see, how France became great, and whose supine Blindness and Negligence put the Views of universal Monarchy into his Head — I need not tell you, how during these things France extended his Conquests upon the Empire; how he disposess'd the Duke of Lorraine and the Elector of Treves; how he seiz'd the three Bishopricks of Metz, Toul, and

add Verdun, the Duke of Lorrain being fain to turn Refugee to the Emperor; how after this he seiz'd all that noble Country between the Moselle and the Rhine, built infinite Fortifications upon the Saar and the Moselle, fortify'd Saar Louis, Mont-Royal, and Landau, Places esteem'd impregnable; how then he advanc'd to the Rhine, took the Imperial Cities of Strasburgh and Ments, the strong Towns of Phillipburg, Fribourg, and Brisac, and built Fort Hunninghen to curb the Swiss, being within Cannon-shot of the City of Basle, took the Brisac, the Honswick, and the Passes of the Black Forrest; and as he strengthened all the Towns he took with invincible Fortifications, so he built Fort Louis and Part of Fort Kiel, and made himself such a Barrier on that side as to this Day, the Emperor has never been able to break through, and by which he has frequently made it easie to pierce even into the Heart of the Empire.

Thus we see, how France has made himself a Terror to Europe, by what Methods he has brought it to pass, and who Europe has to thank for it— But this is not all we owe to the Wickedness of King Charles's Reign, a blacker Account lies still behind, which may in its Time come to Light in these Papers.

In our next we shall examine the Necessity there was of pulling France down from this aspiring Greatness, and that will bring us the best Way to the Question in hand, the Terms of a Peace.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WHeras it was asserted in my Advertisement in the Review of this instant, sign'd J. Cave, that one Mr. Joshua Stephens came to me from time to time with every Sheet of the Manuscript of the Translation of my Book, de Toto Cantharidum, &c. the better to be assur'd, that it was expressive of my Intention in the Latin: I hereby declare it to be utterly false, for that I never saw the said Mr. Joshua Stephens on that Account, or any other

in my Life, neither do I know the said Mr. Joshua Stephens, for that no other Person or Persons ever at any Time came to me with that English Manuscript to be revis'd, but Mr. John Marion, Surgeon, neither did I ever with any revise it, but with him only, who did in my Presence at divers times translate several Pages of it, and brought always the Translation in his Hand Writing, and to whom I have paid Reason, and do verily believe, the Translation is properly owing, as are the many curious Additions and Observations therein, as Witness my Hand this 11th of April, 1709.

John Greenfield, M. D.

To the Truth of this I can and will at any Time make Affidavit, if Occasion. J. G.

To Mr. John Marion, Surgeon.

SIR,

THE following are your Latinisms; *Vig. Fixing a mala fistula upon—upon the Immission of rem in re—Ambubacis—Quot homines tot sententia* —into statu sano.—He cut'd an illustrissimo—that duri oris he proclaims himself—in terrorem, in a Bright—they take non causa, pro causa—
I wish, I could add my ipse dixit—tho' I am Amicus Galenus, Amicus Hippocrates; yet I am magis amica Ratio, Veritas & Sapientia, and according thereto will I act! The Word *Apophtosis*, you say, signifies an Excrecence of Mastulous Skin—These are in the fifth and sixth Editions of your Treatise, therefore can't be the Errors of the Press; as is fully demonstrated in *Quæctory Unmask'd*, Chap. 3. In your Appendix we have, *dicere que puduit scribere jussit*, &c.—*sine Cereris & Bacchini frigidi Venni*—*in tempore coiti*—
You tell p. 5, the Word *Cunnus* signifies to conceive—the Word *Pirage* a lecherous Man—the Moon you call an *Eclipton*—*Hermaphrodites*, amphibious Creatures—Vindicate these Latinisms, &c., and Interest shall be made to E. Curle to inroll you for a Scholar! But till then, you'll not be believ'd (tho' Affidavit be made in the Matter) to be a *Translator*, unless of Old-Shoes.

Yours,

John Spink.